

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Sierra Leone
Program Title:	Strengthening Democratic Institutions
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	636-002
Status:	Continuing
Proposed FY 2003 Obligation:	\$348,000 DA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$0
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$1,817,000 DA; \$3,000,000 ESF
Year of Initial Obligation:	FY 2001
Estimated Completion Date:	FY 2004

Summary: Sierra Leone's decade-long civil war is widely blamed on years of bad governance, inefficient governance institutions, widespread corruption, and the inequitable distribution of the benefits of the country's mineral resources. For years, over two-thirds of the country's population, particularly women and youth, were marginalized from key decision-making processes, leading to disenfranchisement, a lack of opportunities for dialogue, entrenched poverty, and heightened frustration. With the return of peace, USAID is addressing these "root causes" of the civil war by enhancing democratic institutions and strengthening democratic governance practices in Sierra Leone through increasing the capacity of communities to make informed political decisions, and internalizing the practices of a democratic society.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2003 Program:

Broadened Community-based Political Participation (\$348,000 DA). In FY 2003, local-level governance will be strengthened through a Civic Forum program, an intensive grassroots process that builds local groups' ability to organize democratically and to advocate constructively for mutually agreed-upon outcomes, such as establishing development priorities through Community Development Committees. USAID will also train 24 newly elected Parliamentarians, along with 18 women members of parliament, to develop constituency-relations skills to help open up political dialogue, and to ensure that constituents' views are adequately and effectively represented. Principal contractors and grantees: National Democratic Institute (NDI) (prime).

Increased Participation in National Dialogue. Using already obligated prior-year funds, USAID will continue to increase the ability of Sierra Leone citizens to amplify their role in the national political dialogue. Talking Drums Studio Sierra Leone (TDSSL) will continue innovative media activities, including rural radio, music and drama, to disseminate information that encourages peace and reconciliation, and expands participation in public affairs by informed community leaders. TDSSL will develop, produce, and broadcast popular radio programs on all major national radio stations, as well as offer support to individual radio stations to expand their programs that disseminate developmental information. Sub-regional activities including discussion of issues related to elections, HIV/AIDS, diamond mining, local governance, and agricultural/environmental practices. Radio access will be expanded to many communities long cut off from access to national communications. Principal contractors and grantees: Search For Common Ground/Talking Drums Studio Sierra Leone (SFCG/TDSSL) (prime).

Improved Diamond Sector Management. Utilizing already obligated prior-year funds, USAID will strengthen the Government of Sierra Leone's (GOSL) ability to regulate and monitor the country's diamond resources using a two-pronged effort. A Diamond Policy & Management Reform activity will assist the GOSL in improving the regulation and oversight of the industry. This program will continue to track the "chain of custody" of stones from miner to exporter to assist with the Government's determination of the levels of smuggling and identification of steps to reduce illegal diamond trading. This program will also help ensure the fair allocation of Diamond Mining Community Development Fund rebates to communities by publicly informing communities of the amount of disbursements and by

engaging community groups in programming these resources for development purposes. The second "prong" is the Kono Peace Diamond Public/ Private Alliance (KPDPPA), set up to harness what had been a "conflict resource" and convert it to an "investment resource." This will be accomplished through a variety of actions such as creating transparent pricing and licensing structures; developing appropriate and equitable credit mechanisms; organizing and developing civil-society "watch groups," etc. The KPDPPA will involve the international diamond industry, the GOSL Ministry of Mineral Resources, the private sector in Sierra Leone, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), donors, and residents in the diamond-producing community of Kono. In FY 2003, over 850 new legitimate mining licenses will be awarded, adding an \$8 million increase in the value of legally exported diamonds for the GOSL. Principal contractors and grantees: Management Systems International (prime).

Human Rights. USAID plans to contribute already obligated prior-year funds to the West Africa Regional Program (WARP) Mano River Union Peacekeeping program to support targeted gender-based violence prevention and recovery efforts in Sierra Leone. A consortium of partners will provide psycho-therapeutic treatment and support to victims of gender-based violence; skills and vocational training (e.g. tailoring, baking, soap-making) to facilitate community reintegration; and community-wide awareness campaigns on victims of torture. Local NGOs in the Mano River Union countries will raise awareness and promote dialogue and advocacy regarding gender-based violence in their human rights awareness campaigns. Principal contractors and grantees: to be determined.

FY 2004 Program:

Increased Participation in National Dialogue (\$1,000,000 ESF). Under a planned program extension, the TDSSL activity, widely considered by the GOSL and international community to be a cornerstone in the continued promotion of reconciliation and information dissemination efforts, will continue with joint funding from the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and Norway. As the drawdown of U.N. peacekeeping forces continues, this activity will play an important role in a stepped-up anti-corruption effort. Principal contractors and grantees: To be determined.

Improved Diamond Sector Management (\$1,817,000 DA). This activity will be expanded under the transitional strategy extension by giving incentives for communities and government to make positive changes in the way alluvial diamonds are mined in Sierra Leone. The program will also consolidate the advances made in development of private sector alliances currently contributing to the success of this high-visibility program. Principal contractors and grantees: To be determined.

Human Rights/Rule of Law (\$2,000,000 ESF). Under a planned program extension, activities will include expansion of Rule of Law activities (e.g., training of local magistrates, conducting legal defense clinics, improving access to small claims courts, etc.), continued support (if needed) to the Special Court, a broad-based anti-corruption effort, and support to Sierra Leone Human Rights NGOs. Principal contractors and grantees: To be determined.

Performance and Results: By providing support to the National Election Commission, USAID contributed to the country's successful management of the first democratic, nationwide presidential and parliamentary elections in Sierra Leone nearly 30 years. In addition, training was provided to all registered political parties, as well as to female candidates. As a result of the recent elections, nine of the trainees gained seats in Parliament. With USAID support, remarkable progress has been made in fostering a developmental dialogue using popular radio programs and on-air fora aired across the country. The program continues to expand radio access to communities that have been cut off from national communications, particularly in the districts of Kono, Kailahun and Koinadugu. With complementary support from other donors, USAID leveraged greater influence in rationalizing diamond sector management and assisting the government of Sierra Leone to gain more control of its diamond resources. For the first time, through USAID technical assistance and policy dialogue, local diamond mining communities received direct financial benefits in proportion to legal mining taking place within their chiefdoms. In FY 2002, legal exports increased by nearly 50% from \$25 million to \$37 million, and proceeds to mining communities nearly doubled from about \$145,000 to \$280,000. By the end of the current Transition Strategy in FY 2003, this objective will have prepared the ground for more sustainable development programs in the years ahead. By increasing the capacity of communities to make political

decisions and internalize practices of a democratic society, the objective will have contributed to the overall program goal of achieving peace, security, and stability in Sierra Leone.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Sierra Leone

636-002 Strengthening Democratic Institutions	DA	ESF
Through September 30, 2001		
Obligations	500	0
Expenditures	0	0
Unliquidated	500	0
Fiscal Year 2002		
Obligations	4,396	1,725
Expenditures	402	48
Through September 30, 2002		
Obligations	4,896	1,725
Expenditures	402	48
Unliquidated	4,494	1,677
Prior Year Unobligated Funds		
Obligations	0	0
Planned Fiscal Year 2003 NOA		
Obligations	348	0
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2003		
Obligations	348	0
Proposed Fiscal Year 2004 NOA		
Obligations	1,817	3,000
Future Obligations	0	0
Est. Total Cost	7,061	4,725